

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:REBARBOUR:VE

APPROVED BY EUR:LBLAINGEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193787

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON POSSIBLE US/PCI DIALOGUE

REF: ROME 11672

1. STANDBY GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN (STATE 190087) HAS YET TO BE NEEDED. THERE HAVE BEEN NO QUESTIONS HERE ON THE SUBJECT OF BERLINGUER OR A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN U.S. ATTITUDES TOWARD THE PCI, NOR HAVE ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS BEEN ECHOED IN U.S. MEDIA. TO ADDRESS THIS QUESTION IN A SEEMINGLY DEFENSIVE, SELF-INITIATED STATEMENT WOULD ONLY GENERATE CURIOSITY. THIS WOULD NOT DAMPEN THE QUESTION BUT INSTEAD WOULD PROBABLY LEAD TO FURTHER SPECULATION, ESPECIALLY IN ITALY.

2. THE SECRETARY'S BIRMINGHAM SPEECH (TEXT BEING SENT VIA USIA) ADDRESSES PORTUGAL QUESTION IN TERMS WHICH CAN BE TRANSLATED AS ALSO RELEVANT TO ITALY. SPEECH ALSO NOTES THAT PARTICIPATION IN NATO BY A COMMUNIST-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT WOULD BE DESTRUCTIVE OF ALLIANCE PURPOSES. THE INFERENCE IS CLEAR THAT U.S. ATTITUDES TOWARD COMMUNIST

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PARTICIPATION IN AN ALLIED GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT CHANGED.

3. EMBASSY HAS FULL AUTHORITY TO USE EXISTING PRESS
GUIDANCE AND SECRETARY'S SPEECH FOR SUCH PURPOSES AS IT
DEEMS NECESSARY, INCLUDING WITH REFERENCE TO ALLEGATIONS
THAT EMBASSY AND WASHINGTON HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS. IF A
QUOTE THE EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO STATE UNQUOTE PREFACE
WOULD STRENGTHEN CREDIBILITY OF EMBASSY DENIALS, YOU MAY
OF COURSE USE IT. KISSINGER

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